

inside SOCCER

\$2



off to

INSIDE SOCCER - first with the BIG stories

GOODISON

YOUNG CANBERRA goalkeeping prodigy Danny Milosevic is off to Goodison Park, the home of English Premier League side, Everton.

Milosevic is unknown to most Ericsson Cup fans after suffering a training round injury in October which has kept him out for the majority of the season.

But despite that he has been one of the most exciting prospects seen in the competition this year and is widely tipped to be Australia's goalkeeper for the 2000 Olympic Games.

"Danny has a great attitude," says his Cosmos coach, Mike Lyons.

"That is one of the really good things about him."

"He also has lots of talent and there are a lot of people in the local game who are predicting a big future for him."

Already there have been numerous enquiries for the tall Cosmos youngster but the club has quickly slapped a not for sale sign on him.

Currently Canberra Cosmos are negotiating with the AIS graduate to

Neville Southall has

EXCLUSIVE STORIES — Inside Soccer — is full of them

extend his stay with the Ericsson Cup new boys.

"I am confident that Danny will sign with Cosmos," said Canberra chairman Paul Murphy.

"We have already had long talks with him and I am sure that he will stay with us."

That will certainly ward off a string of other clubs, UTS Olympic included, which were looking to Milosevic to solve their goalkeeping problems.

"Danny just wants to play for Australia," says coach Lyons.

"He is setting his first target to make the Olyroo side for the 2000 Olympics but he also wants to get a full cap."

"There is plenty of time for him to go overseas, he is still only seventeen."

"But he wants to go overseas - after he has made it here."

"We have arranged a four week training period at Goodison Park for him."

"Everton keeper

Bruce Campbell

already sent him over videos and he is looking forward to going.

"We'll send him over for four weeks in August."

"That will get him really sharp for the season."

Milosevic has fought his way back strongly after a serious training ground accident which saw him on crutches.

"I've worked hard to get back to fitness," he said recently.

"Now I just can't wait to get back into the first team."

"I've set a goal to play for Australia at the Olympics and I'll just have to keep working hard to get there."

Milosevic is rated very highly with one top coach categorising him as the best ever Australian keeper at his age.

Now Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons is calling on his Everton connections to keep his teenage prodigy at Canberra Cosmos.



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CLOCK OFF!

Ericsson Cup clubs told to turn off the time

ERICSSON CUP clubs have been told to turn their clocks off - or else.

"It is ridiculous," one senior club official told *Inside Soccer*.

"Surely there are far more important things to worry about than whether there is a clock on the scoreboard.

"I haven't been able to find anything in the competition rules which actually stops us from having a clock but we have been told to get it off the scoreboard.

"Apparently there are only three clubs in the country which actually have scoreboard clocks - but why should our fans suffer because the others don't have them?

"I can't see the problem and think it would be good for fans to see how much time is left in the regulation period."

A search through the Cup's rules has failed to find any reference to ground clocks - or music, another bone of

contention with some clubs.

Another club official told *Inside Soccer* that they were informed by a Soccer Australia official that they couldn't play any music during games.

"That's right," he said.

"My club was campaigned for some years to get a regular release on tribunals and transfers - and at last looks like being successful.

"We thought that it was a way to get the crowd more involved in the game and

actually believe that it would start to get the fans chanting.

"But we can't, we're not allowed to."

With the feeling in most clubs that the rules governing the conduct of games, unwritten and written, are antiquated there are sure to be a host of changes during the off season.

This season has been the most successful national league on record from a fans' perspective and Soccer Australia will be keen to

consolidate on that. SocOz media liaison officer Scott Crebbin confirmed that different aspects of the game would be looked at in the close-down period, including giving the media more access.

Inside Soccer has campaigned for some years to get a regular release on tribunals and transfers - and at last looks like being successful.

"We'll have to look at that during the off season," said Scott Crebbin.

"There are several areas which will be discussed with a view to giving more information."

After a period in the doldrums Australian soccer is at last shaking off the 'wog ball' image that haunted it during previous decades.

This season has been the best for some years and there is a new aura of confidence within the game.

Certainly this season has seen far more TV exposure than for some time.

THE BIG TRANSFER STORIES
- ONLY IN *Inside Soccer*

Olympic in race to sign City hot gun

SYDNEY club UTS Olympic are heading the pack in a bid to sign Adelaide City's hot gun striker, Damian Mori.

And sources close to the club are confident that he will be the third in a trio of

big name players to

come to the revitalised club - as exclusively reported by *Inside Soccer* two weeks ago.

"I believe that we are close to getting our man," said our source at the

"Dave Ratcliffe has

Leichhardt side.

"There is tremendous ambition at this club and it looks like we are at last shaking off our 'sleeping giant'

tag which has haunted us for so long.

"Dave Ratcliffe has

brought so much respect to the club that everyone connected with it now sees the full potential."

And it seems that that means bolstering an already impressive playing squad.

With the signing of Jimmy Patikas and Steve Refenes Olympic clearly intend business.

Now the possible arrival of Mori is sure to set the fans buzzing.

This season Damian Mori has shot himself into the record books with a sensational 31 goals - blasting the previous record to smithereens.

That has started a scramble by the big name money clubs for his signature.

Should Mori sign for the Sydneysiders then that could also hasten the departure of Kimon Taliadoros - widely tipped on the terraces to be on his way out at the end of the season.

Olympic is also still in the race for another goalkeeper and it looks like Wollongong's Brett Hughes is a possible target.

"Hughes has been in great form this season," says our club source.

"Olympic are still after Canberra's Danny Milosevic and he is the number one target.

"But if that fails then expect Hughes to come to Leichhardt."

This season Olympic coach David Ratcliffe has used both George



DAMIAN MORI: set to link up with the very ambitious Sydney club, UTS Olympic?

Inside Soccer

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BRETT HUGHES: another possible signing at Leichhardt

Bouhoutsos and the veteran Mike Gibson. Cosmos on a loan deal in place of the injured Milosevic. Ironically, at one stage Gibson looked likely to head south to Canberra up costing Mike Gibson his first team spot - if he chooses to head to Sydney. Now the brilliant youngster could end

Matt Green



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PAGE 3 IS ALWAYS *Hot* in *Inside Soccer*

SO WHO IS GOING TO THE OLYMPICS?

Ask delicious Rowena Leigh - the former Miss Nude Australia is obviously a big Olyroo fan with her patriotic outfit. Rowena won't confess to having any particular Aussie soccer favourite but the stunner, who has also been featured as Australian Penthouse's centrefold, clearly knows which side her stars are buttered on. Good on you, Rowena - and keep on cheering for the Olyroos in pursuit of the Olympic Dream.

by Andrew Dawson



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Perth heat starts fury

SEVERAL top name Ericsson Cup coaches have expressed concerns about playing in the mid day heat of Perth - if SocOz plans to allow Perth Glory to kick off at 3.00pm go ahead as announced some time ago.

There seem to be two main concerns amongst clubs, one of the danger to health and the other of the obvious advantage it would be to the new league side.

"We had to play Sydney United at that time recently," said Marconi's Premiership winning coach Manfred Schaefer, "and it was really hard.

"The players really felt the heat and I thought that it also gave United an advantage as they had played a couple of games at that time and were used to the conditions."

Schaefer was guarded about his comments about the Perth situation - obviously mindful of a possible disrepute charge.

Morwell Falcons Harry Bingham also questioned the decision saying that

he thought it would have a serious effect on players.

Playing in possible mid 30 degree heat places a huge strain on players and increases the likely chances of dehydration because of fluid loss

on players.

Playing in possible mid 30 degree heat places a huge strain on players and increases the likely chances of dehydration because of fluid loss.

Medical opinions have also poured into Inside Soccer since we announced our campaign to get SocOz to change its decision.

Another coach critical of the move was first season new guy and former Everton star, Mike Lyons, at Canberra Cosmos.

"Where are they going to play?" he also asked while agreeing that midday games were a health risk.

"At the moment Perth Glory don't have a soccer

exactly where they will play."

The decision to admit Perth Glory to the Ericsson Cup has been widely applauded by everyone in football but the question of the kick off time seems to have been down played.

Inside Soccer has launched its campaign to bring some common sense to the fore - and will not stop until SocOz makes a change.

Over the next two weeks we will bombard Soccer Australia with questions about playing a summer competition in daytime - and in Australia's hottest state.

Stay tuned for an interesting debate

Bruce Campbell



Foster puts his future on hold

THIS SEASON one of the big successes in the Adelaide City side has been hard running midfielder Craig Foster.

So much so that the mid-season revival by the South Australians has as been much down to his influence as any other single factor.

That has alerted a posse of other clubs and it hasn't gone unnoticed at Sydney United either, the club where he made his national league debut as an eighteen year old fresh from

the Institute of Sport. "United have always been keen on him," said a club insider recently.

"I think that Branko Culina is one of his big admirers and I wouldn't be surprised if they put in a big money offer to land him for next season.

"It is no secret that the United midfield lacks aggression and Foster would be an ideal balance to the ball playing midfielders like Ante Moric and Robbie Enes.

On The Ball.

"I don't think it would be fair on

went back to Malaysia, Sydney United has also gone backwards."

Sydney United are also believed to be desperate to secure Genc on a permanent basis once his contract with PKENJ Johor expires later this year.

Foster himself refused to be drawn into speculation on the matter when he was quizzed by SBS's Kyle Patterson during last Sunday's

On The Ball.

Adelaide City while we are in the Top Six to talk about a possible move," he said.

But Foster did hint at the fact that he could make a move to secure his future.

The 25 year old, who celebrates a birthday this week, has been at Hindmarsh for two seasons and has also had a spell at Sunshine George Cross as well overseas in Hong Kong.

Matt Green

Inside Soccer

top class Australian soccer journalism - at last

INTER TOUR ON

THE WORST KEPT SECRET in Sydney soccer seems to be gaining in momentum, with a major announcement expected shortly.

It is a proposed tour by Italian greats, Inter Milan.

Despite not having its best ever season, the Serie A club would be a huge drawcard for Australian fans and Marconi president Tony Labbozzetta is determined that the tour takes place.

"We are waiting for Soccer Australia to get back to us just now," confirmed Marconi soccer official, Ross Musso.

"Mr Labbozzetta is very keen on the tour and the club has put in a lot of hard work already."

It seems certain that Australia would relax its rule of not playing against club sides to take on the Italians with the probability that it could give national coach Eddie Thomson a good build up to the Intercontinental Championship eliminator against Tahiti.

When AC Milan played two games in Sydney and Melbourne three years ago the Aussies did just that and a repeat would ensure full houses for the tour games which would likely be played in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Another Italian Serie A club, Sampdoria, are also due in Australia shortly and are booked to play in Perth at the end of May.

"We are still awaiting confirmation from Soccer Australia that the tour can go on," added Musso.

"In the past that has been something of a formality and everyone at the club hopes that the games do go on - it will bring a big buzz to the local scene as they are still one of the greatest clubs in world football."

The tour is expected to be sponsored by tyre company, Pirelli.

PHOTO: Matt Bingley in action for Marconi at Bossley Park. The brilliant all-rounder could soon be in action for Australia against Serie A giants Inter Milan.



Ecka Cup clubs back in action by August

PLANS FOR next season are already at an advanced stage and it looks like Ericsson Cup clubs will be in action as early as August.

The season proper is set to start after the Johnnie Walker Cup which would revert to its old format of a pre-season tournament starting as early as late August or early September.

The Ericsson Cup is set to kick off on the weekend of 20/22 September.

Next season will see a fourteen club format with the

inclusion of new clubs, Collingwood Warriors and Perth Glory.

Last week Heidelberg Warriors sacked coach Andy Bozikas making the way for the expected confirmation of the appointment of Eddie Krnceanic as coach.

Heidelberg will enter the league in a joint venture with Collingwood Aussie Rules club and will be known as Collingwood Warriors.

But the early start of the season is good news for Ericsson Cup fans.

With State Federations now playing their own Cup competitions at the end of the winter season that will see most Ericsson Cup clubs back in training at the end of July.

They would be involved in State Cups by mid August and it also looks likely that the latter placed State League sides in the State Cups would also be added to the national event, the Johnnie Walker Cup.

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A DROP OF SCOTCH with Bruce Campbell



EVERTIME that the Top Six comes around we get the usual stories about whether it should be a first past the post system or a play-off, and now we have another one - whether 3rd should play 5th or 6th.

Who cares what the media pundits think because they are clearly in the minority.

The overwhelming evidence points to the fact that the Australian soccer going public wants a play off system.

Every season the figures at the Top Six matches prove that fact beyond any doubt, and every year the Grand Final proves to be the best attended game of the season.

After all, who gives a stuff about what they do in England or anywhere else for that matter, or what they did in nineteen canteen.

This is 1996 Australia and the vast majority of fans want a Top Six.

So why can't the 'experts' just leave it alone?

Isn't there enough to talk about, hasn't the season provided enough topicality without dredging that old chestnut up?

But I guarantee that it re-appears again next season - just as certain as the start of a new season will bring more moaning and groaning about player drain and how our game has gone down the hill.

Every season we get the same old crap; first the player drain which turns gradually into a belter of a season then just as the play offs are on us we get the old 'shouldn't it be a league champions system' drivel again.

The majority of the Australian soccer media is in bad need of an injection of new blood because the predictability of the drivel spouted annually is now beyond the boring, it is just pathetic.

For the record, I think that the Australian soccer public deserves a lot better.

It deserves to get a decent coverage of the news stories covering the events of the game.

And on the subject of news coverage what about the pathetic standard of the Sydney metropolitan dailies?

Each paper has an excellent soccer writer.

Love them or hate them, Ray Gatt, John Taylor and Mike Cockerill are all superb at their craft with at least one of them enjoying a reputation amongst his peers as a quite brilliant writer.

But what about the coverage their papers give

The *Telegraph* doesn't cover Aussie soccer on a Tuesday because that's John's day off.

The *Australian* seems to exclude Ray Gatt's soccer copy whenever it can while the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which has Mike Cockerill as the soccer number one, is just a joke.

The story goes that David Hill took the Editors of these prominent mass circulation papers to lunch to get more soccer coverage.

Well, if that's true - then you must have picked the wrong restaurant, Davey boy, because it has got WORSE.

But big bouquets to Galaxy, SBS and Optus TV - what a brilliant job they are doing for the coverage of the game.

And Harry Michaels can rightly take a bow for much of that - including the coverage on the commercial TV news grabs.

Another Sydney media outlet deserving an award is little BFM, the Bankstown radio station which provides up to SIX hours of Aussie soccer a week.

Maybe if SocOz gave media awards then the so-called 'big guys' might be forced to sit up and take notice - or least shown up for what they are, second rate.

But maybe the big boys are big only in their own minds.

Shaking off the struggle town tag

OVER THE last few years things haven't been very rosy at Wollongong's Brandon Park. In fact, and to be blunt, they have been crap.

It got that bad that former coach Dave Ratcliffe even looked like getting the chop.

But 'Bronson' survived what was looming as a motion of no confidence to instead turn his back on the Wolves and head for UTS Olympic.

Berti Mariani came in but didn't last the term and when the Harry Michael's-backed Nick Theos took over a struggling side the knowing heads were predicting when, rather than if.

A spate of loan deals with Marconi and Sydney United bought Theos the time that he needed to make his own mark and now he has been confirmed in a new two year deal, a time in which he wants to bring the glory days back to Brandon Park.

"I'd like it to happen next season," he says with complete confidence.

"But it takes time and if it doesn't happen next season then we will definitely be back at the top the year after that."

Theos rightly points out the statistics of his 16 game sequence as coach - a sequence which saw the Wolves climb off the bottom rung and shake up the big boys.

"In those sixteen games we only lost 9 by just one goal," he says.

"We were also ahead in eight of them at one stage in the game and hit 15 posts."

But Theos doesn't look to Lady Luck as

"He has had a great partnership with Richard Lloyd.

"Matt Horsley has also been brilliant and he is the sort of player who always leads by example.

"He is also a local who just doesn't want to play for anyone else."

Chairman Brian Hastings is also confident of the future of his club.

"We have done everything that we have ever been asked to by the League," he says.

"Wollongong is financial and this

region has a big part to play in soccer's future.

"Obviously there have been let downs and problems but I don't think that we ever thought our future in the Ericsson Cup was at stake.

"The Wolves have been a part of top soccer in Australia for a long time - and we intend to be there in years to come as well."

However, the realities of the situation are that to do that then there has to be an influx of players - and fast.

Theos knows that - as does financial backer Harry Michaels.

And it looks like a substantial sum will be made available to bring in new players.

It is tipped that Theos will look overseas for new players and that anything up to FIVE new faces will feature in a Wolves strip next season.

Realistically, the Wolves have to do that to shake off their struggle town tag, a tag which doesn't sit well with coach, players or fans.



Cup Six

THE BATTLE CONTINUES



MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Marconi-Fairfield v Melbourne Knights

FIRST LEG:
Melbourne Knights 1 Marconi 0

GRAND FINAL

Sunday 26th May

WINNER: Marconi v Melbourne Knights

v

WINNER: Preliminary Final

PRELIMINARY FINAL

May 18 or 19

LOSER: Marconi v Melbourne Knights

v

WINNER: Elimination Semi Final

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

UTS Olympic v Adelaide City

FIRST LEG:
Adelaide City 2 UTS Olympic 0

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

Brisbane Strikers v Sydney United

FIRST LEG:
Sydney United 2 Brisbane Strikers 0



Premier Stallions

Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer was "delighted" with his side's gutsy come back against West Adelaide to take out the club's first Premiership since the 1989/90 season.

"We felt confident going into the game," he said.

"The important thing was that our destiny was in our control.

"We didn't have to rely on any other team to do the business for us and that was an important factor.

"All along the players have been confident and now obviously we intend to go on with the job and get to the Grand Final."

Marconi are rated by most pundits as firm favourites to win the Championship.

And for the statistically minded the Stallions share the unique distinction with Melbourne Knights, their Major Semi Final opponents, as being the only sides in soccer history to win the Premiership-Championship double.

Final Chance

The NSL All Stars

JOIN Inside Soccer's journalists in selecting the NSL ALL STARS. Just send in your entry from the names shortlisted here - and you could also be in the running for a special readers' prize. You can also add YOUR selections in THREE other categories, also; BEST ROOKIE, BEST IMPORT & MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

GOALKEEPERS

Peter BLAZINCIC (West Adelaide)
Bobby CATLIN (Marconi-Fairfield)
Brett HUGHES (Wollongong City Wolves)
Frank JURIC (Melbourne Knights)
Jason PETKOVIC (Adelaide City)
Michael PETKOVIC (South Melbourne)

SWEEPERS

Milan IVANOVIC (Adelaide City)
John KOCH (Canberra Cosmos)
Tony POPOVIC (Sydney United)

STOPPERS

Mark BABIC (Sydney United)
Milan BLAGOJEVIC (Olympic)
Velimir KUPRESAK (Sydney United)
Dominic LONGO (Marconi)

FULLBACKS

David BARRETT (UTS Olympic)
Matt BINGLEY (Marconi)
Paul DEE (Canberra Cosmos)
Doug MARCINA (Morwell)
Mike SMITH (Marconi-Fairfield)

MIDFIELDERS

Matt HORSLEY (Wollongong)
Mike PETERSEN (South Melb)
Jason POLAK (Brisbane Strikers)
Danny TIATTO (Melb Knights)
Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)

STRIKERS

Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi)
Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
Brad HASSELL (Adelaide City)
Damian MORI (Adelaide City)
Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
Kimon TALIADOROS (Olympic)
Paul TRIMBOLI (Sth Melbourne)
Jim TSEKENIS (West Adelaide)

BEST ROOKIE
Tansell BASER (South Melbourne)
Alex CASTRO (Canberra)
Michael CURCIJA (South Melbourne)
Nathan DAY (West Ad)
Ice KUTLESOVSKI (Melbourne Knights)
Esala MASSI (Morwell)
Michael MUSITANO (Canberra Cosmos)
John PEROSH (Sydney United)
Michael PETKOVIC (South Melbourne)
Tom PONDELJAK (Melbourne Knights)
Vlado ZORIC (Marconi)

BEST IMPORT
Norman KELLY (Canberra Cosmos)
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Six expats named in Olyroo squad

EDDIE Thomson has named a 22 man provisional squad as he attempts to go one better than Australia's fourth Olympic Games placing at Barcelona in 1992.

The national boss intends to trim the squad to a travel party of eighteen this week as the Olyroos depart for USA on 13 May where they will play a two game build up against the USA before taking on the, as yet, unknown CONCACAF challenger in the first leg on May 26.

Australia, the winners of the Oceania section, play the runners-up of CONCACAF for the right of entry to the Olympic finals

tournament which will take place in July.

Thomson has named no fewer than SIX overseas based players - although it would have undoubtedly been seven had Glasgow Rangers star Craig Moore been fit.

Moore has recently broken down in training after fighting his way back to full fitness after suffering

a broken bone in his foot in a Scottish League derby match with Glasgow Celtic.

Another overseas based player said to be in contention for the USA Olympics is John Aloisi, currently playing with Cremonese in the Italian Serie A.

"Eddie has been negotiating with the player and his club to have him included in

the squad," said a SocOz spokesman.

Also included in the squad is teenage sensation Harry Kewell who recently made his full international debut against Chile after making the first team at Leeds.

Thomson describes Kewell as "the best fullback ever developed in Australia".

The 22 man squad is:

Hayden Foxe (Ajax), Paul Agostino (Bristol City), Gabriel Mendez (Admira Wacker), Mark Viduka (Zagreb), Harry Kewell (Leeds United), Tony Carbone (Nottingham Forest), Goran Lozanovski, Brad Hassell (Adelaide City), Clint Bolton, Sean Cranney (Brisbane Strikers), Luke Casserly (Marconi), Frank Juric, Danny Tiatto, Joe Spiteri, Adrian Cervinski (Melbourne Knights), Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne), Mark Babic, Ante Moric, Robert Enes (Sydney United), Peter Tsekenis, Norman Tome (UTS Olympic), and Ross Aloisi (West Adelaide). Australia play qualifying games on May 26 and June 2.

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THE OLYMPIC DREAM



Australia's 1992 hopefuls line up for the first leg of the eliminator against Holland at the Sydney Football Stadium. They suffered the disappointment of a 1-1 draw - but two Ned Zelic goals in Utrecht got them through on the away goals rule.

FOR ALL of the clubs, players it represents. But the finals also represent a huge year's hard work; four years of dedicated officials as they fitness and skills struggle to keep back the waves of talent.

For others it means scouts. much more; the Olympic Games are the only pathway to the rich playing fields of Europe.

History shows that the Olympic Games (Brugge) are also a dream field for European talent. Okon was still a bit of a Euro novice and had scouts, bringing to yet to make his first get-him the best of team debut for his Asian, African and Belgian club. On the other hand world soccer countries Bosnich had already - all regarded as easy enjoyed some suc- pickings for the cess as a seventeen cashed up European year old at Manchester

OLYMPIC FACTS

— Australia has played at THREE Olympic Finals; Melbourne 1956, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992

— Australia's best ever placing was in Barcelona when they were FOURTH - being beaten in the semi final by Poland and then in the play off for the Bronze Medal by Ghana.

— Australia was undefeated en-route to Barcelona, beating Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand in the Oceania qualifiers and then drawing 1-1 and 2-2 with Holland in the final eliminator

United and was, even then, clearly en route to a huge career. But in the months, and in some cases days, that followed Barcelona no fewer than THIRTEEN Aussie players transferred overseas.

And with some final hurdle of a media pundits CONCACAF playoff. claiming this the best ever Under 23 squad this time around is that Australia has ever assembled that three over-age players could be even greater this time whom are likely to be around - should European based Australia get past the expats.

THE BOYS FROM BARCELONA

Zlatko ARAMBASIC (Mechelen, now Metz)
Milan BLAGOJEVIC (Ekeren)
Mark BOSNICH (Aston Villa)
Steve CORICA (Leicester, later Wolves)
John FILAN (Cambridge Utd, later Coventry)
Dominic LONGO (Cercle Brugge)
Shaun MURPHY (Notts County)
Paul OKON (Brugge)
Steve REFINES (Olympiakos)
David SEAL (Bristol City)
Carl VEART (Sheffield Utd, later Crystal Palace)
Tony VIDMAR (Ekeren, later Breda)
Ned ZELIC (Borussia, later QPR & Eintracht)

and those who stayed at home
John GIBSON (Adelaide City)
Gary HASLER (Vic State League)
Brad MALONEY (Marconi)
John MARKOVSKI (Mel Knights)
Damian MORI (Adelaide City)
Tony POPOVIC (Sydney United)*
George SLIFKAS (Vic State League)
* the only player from Barcelona still at his original club

**In The
NEXT ISSUE
of *Inside Soccer***

- * SOCCER BINGO
- * OUR CELEBRITY COLUMNISTS
- * A LOOK AT THE REGIONAL CLUBS
- * THE TOP SIX
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and more much, much more

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Robbie Slater

West Ham United
& Australia



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Mitre

IT'S A HARD WAY to finish a season but I guess I am really lucky.

Although I don't like being out of the team my injury could have been a lot worse.

It happened in a game against Bolton Wanderers and just before half time I went in for a 50/50 ball.

But instead of getting the ball I got caught with a tackle which ripped through the skin on my leg.

I can remember my leg tingling and I looking down through the hole in my sock to adjust what I thought was my shin pad.

But it wasn't - it was the bone, and I was trying to move it!

That white thing wasn't a shin pad, it was pure bone and you could see right through my leg, it wasn't a good feeling at all!

I was operated on that night and had sixty stitches inserted into a wound which had my calf cut away from its attaching bone.

The surgeon told me that I was very lucky and I am just glad that my leg wasn't broken.

I was told that I would be out for four weeks which takes me up to now - the end of the season.

Imagine, I'm just ready to write my first column for *Inside Soccer* and then I'm out.

But really, I've been very lucky and other than what seems to be a now

seasonal hamstring injury I haven't had any worse ones.

Maybe I'm getting too many hamstring injuries lately, though.

So that's it for this season and there is no end of the season tour for the Hammers either.

That one to Australia last season will have done them for a while although there is a players' end of season trip to Tenerife.

That's an optional one and I'll be off to France to spend some time with my wife's family instead.

I played for five years in France and a lot of people told me that I was picking up a French accent, now it seems that I've got a bit of Cockney in me - maybe a holiday will sort that out, and I'll be back to being an Aussie again.

The next major game for the Socceroos is against Tahiti for the Inter-continental Championship qualifier.

I haven't heard from Eddie Thomson about that so I suppose that he will rely on a largely local based squad.

Without any disrespect to anyone, Eddie should be able to pick ten teams to beat Tahiti and he will probably overlook the European based players who at that time would be just starting pre-season training.

Everybody at West Ham United is



obviously pleased that we pulled clear of the relegation zone and maybe there will be a few changes next season.

Our manager, Harry Redknapp, has always played two wingers when I have been available - and I suppose that he must like playing me there.

But when I have been out he has played five at the back and maybe he will use that more next season.

He certainly seems to like that style and, really, I wouldn't mind playing a different role either.

If I could pick my own position I would play in the middle, although I wouldn't mind playing as a wing back either.

I seemed to have played everywhere in the last few years so I don't really care where I play - as long as I get a game.

The game against Scotland was one of those rare times when a lot of the Aussies in Europe can get

together.

But I was really disappointed with the reaction of the Australian media to the result.

After all, Scotland has qualified for the European Championships and they only beat us 1-0.

Maybe they didn't play that well, but it was Hampden and they were Scotland.

They gave us a lot of respect and it would seem that the old days of battling Aussie teams are over.

That is no way any disrespect to any previous team, they were different times - but today most of the players are playing full time in Europe and it really is a different ball game.

But we still get hammered (no pun intended) by some of the Australia media.

Anyway, that's football - and I'll see you later.

Robbie Slater

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JOHN WHITE'S Life's A Ball

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ARE WINGERS a relic of the past, an anachronism of a bygone age when football was the greatest of all sports, when gentlemanly conduct certainly didn't include spitting, elbowing or that most dreadful of all continental fouls - shirt tugging.

Is our football instead relegated to a repeat of the monotonous over coaching that we have been subjected to since Alf Ramsey desecrated the memory of the greats with his 1966 wingless wonders?

Why can't our game feature the greatest of all spectacles; the swerving, dribbling runs down the touch line which culminate in an intricately chipped ball to the far or near post.

Then the hapless defenders, caught wrong footed and turned away from their favourite backs to goal position are at the mercy of any good centre forward.

When Australia recently played Scotland we saw glimpses of one of the best wingers in recent years, Pat Nevin, who

came on as a late sub for the Scots.

And what of our own Robbie Slater, now joined the team of *Inside Soccer's* writers?

Isn't he really a true winger?

Or Brisbane Striker Frank Farina, who has some truly amazing ball skills.

When he was at Canberra as a raw kid he didn't seem inhibited in going down the touch line.

Has all those years of playing in the 'killing fields' of European football taken that edge from his game?

Me, I blame the coaches.

They have killed the game.

Sure, it is still the greatest, but it isn't the game that it once was.

In the *good old* days wing play was a premium that no good team could afford to do without - then came that abomination, Alf Ramsey.

He re-invented the meaning of boring - and an equally stupid English public saw him pick up a knighthood for 'services' to sport



Dying breed: wing wizard Robbie Slater

when his dreadful side won the World Cup after re-inventing the laws of the game.

They are the only team to have ever scored a goal in the greatest of all tournaments with a ball which didn't cross the line.

Since then the Ramsey clones, the Boys for England, have taken the fun

out of the game.

No more shoulder charges, no more slide tackles from behind - FIFA has done its part too.

But the biggest criminal is the coach.

OK, I'm wrong - so ask any coach you know how he builds a new side.

I bet it starts from the back, with a good goalie, one centre back - or two, or

three, - and then the midfield.

The winger?

Forget it, he is a fading memory.

Still there is always Ryan Giggs, and then maybe Frank Farina

will hug the touchline next season, and Robbie Slater is certainly at a team where wing play is encouraged.

Maybe, maybe, maybe

Life after the stiffs



by
Mike Komadina

IT TAKES MORE THAN SWALLOW TO MAKE A SUMMER: that's the words of wisdom from ace Marconi striker, Andy Harper.

And the sharpshooter had to see the merit of his own words when he sat out the penultimate Ericsson Cup round through suspension.

Harper has been named as the big reason for the dramatic switch of fortunes at Bossley park this term - but clearly he doesn't see it that way.

However, his sideline 'rest' was over when he got back in for the final game against West Adelaide - and got back on the scoresheet as the Stallions powered back to win in impressive style.

This season has been Harper's best - of that there is no doubt, but his latest period out with suspension was one of agony.

"I'm happy with the way things have gone this season," admits Harper.

"But I'm happy that the team has done well after last year's debacle."

"We have been competitive and are happy to be in contention at the right time in the season."

Behind every success there is always a good reason and that applies equally well to players.

Andy Harper agrees.

"I probably got a bit fed up," he confesses.

"I made a commitment to get fitter this season but it's very difficult to contribute if you're not selected in the team."

"Last season Icardi wouldn't pick me - he just kept me in the stiffs so it is very difficult to contribute to the effort if you're not on the field."

"For whatever reason I've forced my way into Manfred Schaefer's calculations and managed to stay there and once I'm in the starting line up I'll do the job, I'm pretty confident of that."

Davo drops out of South coaching race

WITH THE departure of Frank Arok from the South Melbourne hot seat it looked like Alan Davidson was set to make a big time comeback to the Blues.

At one stage he headed a list of prospective coaches which included Len McKendry, Angie Postecoglou and Stevie Blair in a dual role.

Davidson's decision follows the offer of a \$US10,000 per month job in the new Singapore S League.

Alan has contracted for a coaching job in Singapore next



been widely tipped as a certainty to take up the reins at Bob Jane Stadium.

In other coaching moves in Victoria

Harry Bingham has firmed in favouritism to stay at Morwell Falcons while Eddie Kmecic looks set to sign on at

•

Records tumble at Suncorp

BY ANY accounts this has been a record setting season for the Brisbane Strikers.

No Queensland side has ever won the national league and the Strikers fourth placing in this season's Ericsson Cup is the highest since the third spot posted by Brisbane City way back in 1981.

The Strikers previous best was sixth place in their inaugural NSL season in 1990/91.

"It has been a really remarkable season for the club," says

Farina inspired side in pursuit of ultimate accolade

Strikers media officer Jason Kluver.

"We started off by locking in a three year sponsorship with Hyundai and then signed Frank Farina and Jason Polak.

"And this season all sorts of records have tumbled.

"Frank Farina has shattered the previous club single season goal scoring record of nine goals

with his tally of nineteen.

"The attendance record has also been smashed several times during this season."

"The old figure was 4,957 which was set last season against Melbourne Knights.

"But the new figure now stands at 8,516 which was set against Morwell falcons.

"And add to that our

new record sequence of twelve straight games without loss and it has been a great season."

The Strikers now have their sights set on one more target - the Championship which has so far eluded Brisbane sides in the past although both City and Lions are past Johnnie Walker (NSL) Cup winners.

BARGAIN BUY: costing a measly \$1,000 on a tribunal from South Melbourne, Jason Polak has proven the buy of the century for the record breaking Strikers



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Boots 'n' Balls, Canberra 103.9FM 8.20am

Wednesday 8 May
Spanish League GALAXY 5.30pm
French League GALAXY 10.30pm
Italian League GALAXY 1.30am
Hall of Fame GALAXY 3.30am
European Cup Winners Cup Final - LIVE GALAXY 4.00am

Thursday 9 May
German League GALAXY 10.00pm
Road To England SBS 7.00pm

Friday 10 May
Premier Goals GALAXY 7.00pm

Saturday 11 May
Futbol Mundial GALAXY 10.30am
Scottish League GALAXY, 2.00pm
World Soccer SBS, 4.00pm
Match of the Day, Radio BFM 6.30pm
Marconi v Melbourne Knights followed by "English Cup Party"
English Soccer, Radio 2KY 11.30pm
FA Cup Final GALAXY 12.00am
FA Cup Final SBS tba
ERICSSON CUP TOP SIX
Marconi v Melbourne Knights

Sunday 12 May
English Premier League, ABC 10.00am
Italian Soccer, SBS 10.30am
On The Ball SBS, 11.30am
Sunday Soccer Rap, Triple SSS 103.9 FM, 9pm
Sunday Soccer Rap, BFM 88.7, 10pm
ERICSSON CUP
Brisbane Strikers v Sydney United
UTS Olympic v Adelaide City

Monday 13 May
Asian Soccer GALAXY 2.00pm
Ericsson Cup Soccer, SBS 7.30pm
Hall of Fame GALAXY 8.00pm
Italian Soccer GALAXY 8.30pm
English Premier League ABC 10.30pm

Tuesday 14 May
Boots 'n' Balls, Triple S FM103.9, 8.20am
Boots 'n' Balls, BFM 88.7, 8.20am

Wednesday 15 May
Spanish League 5.30pm
Italian League 1.00am
UEFA Cup Final 2nd leg - LIVE GALAXY 4.00am

Thursday 16 May
Road to England SBS 7.00pm

Friday 17 May
Premier Goals GALAXY 7.00pm
German League GALAXY 10.00pm

Saturday 18 May
Futbol Mundial GALAXY, 11.30am
Italian League GALAXY 12 noon
World Soccer SBS, 4.30pm
Match of the Day, Radio BFM, 6.30pm "Scottish Cup Party"
English Soccer, Radio 2KY 11.30pm
Scottish Cup Final Preview GALAXY, 11.30pm
Scottish Cup Final GALAXY 12.00pm

Sunday 19 May
English Premier League, ABC 10.00am
On The Ball SBS, 11.30am
Sunday Soccer Rap, Triple SSS 103.9 FM, 9pm
Sunday Soccer Rap, BFM 88.7, 10pm
ERICSSON CUP TOP SIX

Monday 20 May
Ericsson Cup Soccer, SBS 7.30pm
English Premier League, ABC 10.30pm

Tuesday 21 May
Boots 'n' Balls, Radio BFM 88.7, 8.20am
Boots 'n' Balls, Triple S FM103.9, 8.20am
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SOCCEROOS BACK IN TOP 50

AUSTRALIA is one of the upward movers in FIFA's very controversial computerised world rankings.

The Socceroos moved up three places to make it into the top flight in 49th place.

Other movers include Colombia which has shot into the top ten nations after moving up ten places.

But the biggest mover in the top fifty was Croatia which moved up 15 places into 28th spot.

Scotland, which beat the Socceroos recently at Hampden, are also upward movers - going up two places into 27th spot.

TOP TEN

1st	Brazil
2nd	Germany
3rd	Russia
4th	Italy
5th	France
6th	Spain
7th	Sweden
8th	Argentina
9th	Colombia
10th	Czech Republic

OCEANIA RANKINGS

49th	Australia
113rd	New Zealand
146th	Fiji
158th	Tahiti
174th	Solomon Islands
180th	Vanuatu

JOE SPITERI: sensationally ordered off in the 0-3 defeat against Chile - but the Socceroos have still moved up FIFA's controversial world rankings

JAPAN is the top ranked Asian nation in 29th place, due largely to the number of matches it plays.

John White



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Spotlight

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INSIDE SOCCER PAGE 17

Marconi target young gun

HIGH FLYING Sydney club Marconi has joined the race to land Canberra Cosmos immensely talented attacking midfielder, Michael Musitano.

Musitano burst onto the Ericsson Cup scene this season with the Cosmos and has quickly picked up a host of admirers.

Surprisingly, Musitano was recently omitted from Eddie Thomson's Olympic squad although there is still a slim chance that he can force his way into the final party for USA '96.

Also included in the string of clubs after the Griffith born player are believed to

be South Melbourne, West Adelaide, Adelaide City, UTS Olympic and Sydney United.

Ironically, Sydney United had Musitano on trial during the off season but didn't offer him a worthwhile package to leave Canberra.

Now he looks likely to head to their west Sydney rivals with Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer just one of a chain of coaches keen to add him to their squads for next season.

Musitano has often been played out of position with the Cosmos this season with most seeing his best position as an attacking midfielder.

"Michael is an exciting player who

or filling in the hole behind the strikers.

Only recently he was courted by South Melbourne officials when the Canberra side played a league match at Bob Jane Stadium.

The Blues looked to be favourites for Musitano's signature but now that the glamour Sydney side has joined the race that has all changed.

"We are very impressed with him," said a Marconi official.

"He is the sort of player who could do well at this club - he also has the kind of style that our fans like.

"Michael is an exciting player who

likes to run at defenders."

In a match against Marconi late in the season it was Musitano, along with sweeper John Koch, who sparked a second half fight-back that earned Canberra a share of the points.

This season he has also scored six goals in his twenty seven goals although it is no secret in Canberra that Cosmos coach Mike Lyons wants him to be more aggressive on the park.

Musitano is currently out of contract although Canberra Cosmos have offered him a new deal.



Unhappy striker for Pahang

MORWELL Falcons star Brian Bothwell is set to transfer to money bags Malaysian club, Pahang.

In recent seasons Pahang has been one of the glamour clubs of the M League but this season has slumped to the bottom of the table.

Bothwell will replace one of the existing visa players and is being targeted by Pahang on the recommendation of their Aussie super star, Alan Davidson. Davidson had a guest spell with his former club South Melbourne during the Malaysian off season.

Bothwell had looked set for a move to South Melbourne before the offer from Pahang came in.

Last season he played a short time with Brunei.

.... and Zoricich going to England

ONE OF the success stories at Brisbane Strikers this season has been classy attacking full back Chris Zoricich.

Before joining the Strikers in 1993 the Kiwi International played with English club Leyton Orient for four years, making over sixty league appearances.

Zoricich's form has also seen him become a regular member of the All Whites team.

Now he is set to try his luck overseas again - as soon as the Brisbane side's Top Six run ends.

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Zdrilic: the everywhere man

"I WAS very nervous when I first got out there," admits David Zdrilic of his 'debut' performance as a goalkeeper recently for Sydney United.

"There is a whole different perspective on the game playing in goals."

"You have everything in front of you and you have nowhere to go - you are the last line."

Zdrilic became the 'everywhere' man of Aussie soccer against Marconi when an injury to Andrew Crews saw him swap into the keepers' shirt at half time.

"I was really

nervous," he says, "but United played well in the second half and I didn't have much to do."

"I couldn't really see the ball when they scored so didn't have much chance with that."

"The ball fell to Mark Babic and when he tried to clear it it just span off his foot and Francis Awaritefe just volleyed it straight past me."

Prior to that game Zdrilic had only ever gone between the sticks as a junior although he is often the 'training ground' goalie.

"He's overlooked me for every other one," he laughs, "maybe I'll get a chance there."

"But I believe that we are a chance in the Top Six now - we fear no-one."

Mike Komadina

"I love being goalie

WHATEVER HAPPENED to ...

er, um

.... what's-his-name



TONY FRANKEN was the 'nearly man' of Australian goalkeeping. Picked 21 times to wear the Green and Gold he nevertheless managed only two full caps. Franken was the AIS graduate who always seemed destined to make it BIG after starring in the Australian youth side. But in the end he was kept out of the A team by a string of top keepers. At club level he played over two hundred NSL games for Canberra Arrows, Sydney United, APIA and Parramatta. Now, the 31-year-old has lost his place in the Eagles NSW Super League side to youngster Jason Holmes.

STRIKER by Adrian Alston

Minor Manfred

I'm sick of waiting for the final six play offs before our national soccer league gets really interesting.

What a joke when a team goes through the whole season, finishes top and is then called 'minor' premiers.

So that must have been the pretend season and now the real competition kicks off, eh?

Believe me, all you guys at Marconi, you are the best.

If you go on and win the finals then that is a bonus but you must realise that you have achieved what every professional player in the world wants; to win a league championship.

We play soccer in Australia under FIFA rules so why the bloody hell do we have to play our competition under Rugby League or Aussie Rules with the winner of the Grand Final being champions?

I'm not saying that we shouldn't have a Top Six play offs but we should have a different cup and call it something else.

Marconi have worked their arses off for the last eight months so give them a championship medal, because that is what they really are, Champions.

I checked every channel the other Sunday night for some results, let alone highlights, and guess what? Nothing...

Marconi had just won the League and

Once again its Finals Fever - and *Inside Soccer* columnist Adrian Alston hits home - never afraid to call it how he sees it.

nobody even knew.

And why don't we get regular large crowds? Because the game wasn't important, it was only a League game.

Come on, Soccer Australia - follow the world with the world game and make every game so important that the supporters will be there every week - not just the for the finals.

And by the way, Manfred, make sure you still win the Grand Final or they will probably still call you minor.

All the best - I love this game.

Noddy



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ERICSSON CUP

TOP SIX

Sunday 5th May
 MELB KNIGHTS 1 MARCONI-FAIRFIELD .. 0
 A Cervinski 61
 Att:
 Ref:

SYDNEY UNITED 2 BRISBANE STRIKERS .. 0
 Zdrilic 14
 Moric
 Att:
 Ref:



ADELAIDE CITY 2 UTS OLYMPIC 0
 Hassell 5

Att:

Ref:

ROUND 33

Sunday 28 April
 UTS OLYMPIC 2 BRISBANE STRIKERS .. 1
 Meredith 79
 Trajanovski 80
 Att: 9,324
 Ref: S Micallef

CANBERRA COSMOS 2 MORWELL FALCONS ... 0
 Perinovic 40
 Lemezina 58
 Att: 5,127
 Ref: W Dade

ADELAIDE CITY 1 SYDNEY UNITED 3
 Tobin 11
 Att: 7,329
 Ref: E Lennie

Zdrilic 3
 Kupresak 50
 Lamond 58

ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	33	17	9	7	58	35	60
Melbourne Knights	33	17	8	8	50	28	59
UTS Olympic	33	17	8	8	55	41	59
Brisbane Strikers	33	17	6	10	54	35	57
Adelaide City	33	15	9	9	65	40	54
Sydney United	33	14	12	7	47	33	54
West Adelaide	33	16	5	12	49	43	53
South Melbourne	33	14	4	15	50	56	46
Canberra Cosmos	33	8	11	14	48	61	35
Morwell Falcons	33	9	8	16	35	65	35
Wollongong City	33	5	5	23	31	63	20
Newcastle Breakers	33	4	5	24	35	77	17

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE - NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	33	24	2	7	98	22	74
AIS	33	23	2	8	110	43	71
UTS Olympic	33	19	6	8	76	38	63
Sydney United	32	20	2	10	68	45	62
ACT Academy	33	19	4	10	74	58	61
Qld Academy	31	16	3	12	83	47	51
Wollongong City	32	15	4	13	75	68	49
Newcastle Breakers	33	13	3	17	54	62	42
Paramatta Eagles	33	10	8	15	51	77	38
Blacktown City	30	6	6	18	42	105	24
St George	31	3	2	26	26	104	11
NSW ITC	32	3	2	7	29	117	11

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

NORTHERN COLTS LEAGUE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
MacArthur Rams	22	16	3	0	3	57	22	54
UTS Olympic	22	13	2	1	6	31	16	44
Paramatta	21	12	4	0	5	40	32	44
Illawarra	20	12	3	1	4	44	19	43
Central Coast	22	9	5	0	8	46	53	37
Sydney United	22	8	6	0	8	37	30	36
Warringah	22	7	7	1	7	30	23	36
Bankstown City	23	8	6	1	9	52	42	35
Bonnyrigg	22	10	2	1	9	33	36	35
Rockdale City	21	10	1	0	10	39	43	32
Sutherland	21	9	1	0	11	44	37	29
Leichhardt	23	5	4	0	14	25	56	23
Canterbury	23	6	2	0	15	26	59	22
Leichhardt	22	5	3	0	14	24	55	21
Adamstown	22	2	1	1	18	22	58	9

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 NEWCASTLE 0

Damianos 8
 Muscat 71
 Att: 5,253
 Ref: M Shield

WOLLONGONG CITY 1 MELB KNIGHTS 2
 A Jermen 8
 Att: 3,298
 Ref: D Crawford

WEST ADELAIDE 3 UTS OLYMPIC 2
 Cardozo 13
 Day 62
 Aloisi 65
 Att: 5,225
 Ref: E Brazzale

NORTHERN YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 33
 Parramatta Eagles 1 Newcastle Breakers 2
 NSW ITC 1 Sydney United 3
 ACT Academy 7 Blacktown City 1
 Wollongong City 2 AIS 4
 UTS Olympic 3 QAS 1
 Marconi Fairfield 8 St George 0

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cup finals special
7th May 1996

WORLD

CUP MAGIC

by
Alex Cameron
in Glasgow

WHAT A CLIMAX to the season: the two greatest Cup tournaments on earth reaching their final climax.

In England the script writers finally got it on the button with the match up of the two biggest names in the game, Liverpool and Manchester United.

Both of the Red Armies are chock full of stars: Cantona, Fowler, Rush, Schmeichel, Giggs – just where do you stop, while north of the border Glasgow Rangers come up against a Hearts team determined not to let them take an almost total domination of the Scottish scene.

For the mighty 'Gers it is eight leagues in a row – just one behind that fantastic Celtic record of the sixties and seventies.

But Celtic's reign of supremacy was springboarded by a European Cup success, something that has remained just too elusive for a

Rangers team which has dominated at home but fallen well short of the European mark.

For Hearts it is a mega pay day, a day which gives them some hope of matching it with the big guys in the future.

For Rangers it is another chance to do the double – just as it is down south for Manchester United.

A Man U double of doubles, almost unthinkable.

And for those who say that Rangers are totally dominating the Scottish game, what about Manchester United?

With the guile and brilliance of Eric Cantona they are proving a class above the rest.

Three Premier League titles out of four is an indication of their position just as the magnificent Old Trafford stadium is a reminder to the rest of their economic wealth.

In Scotland Rangers occupy a similar position: a club of simply staggering wealth.

And the addition of another tier to their Centenary Stand, raising the

ground capacity to 47,000, increases that potential to just get richer and richer even more.

For my mind there will be only two winners, the clubs who have established themselves as the true powerhouses of the British game.

Rangers and Manchester United, then – but a warning: Cup Finals have an unhappy way of reminding us that passion – and the fickle roll of luck – has as much to do with the result than any other single factor.

CLOWN IN FOOTBALL BOOTS?
Paul Gascoigne has defied his critics this season and his double Scottish Player of the Year awards are ample recognition of his midfield brilliance – despite his addiction for silly clothing and hairstyles.



Here we go, here we go

WE WERE GOING to keep this one in moth balls until the start of the new European season but under a deluge of reader requests our Editorial office has finally succumbed.

Enjoy this FA and Scottish Cup Finals Special edition of *Soccer World* – and get a taste of what is to come later on.

In this world game paper we will bring you all of the action from around the world, with a big emphasis on the British leagues and the European tournaments. International and World Cup football will get a major profile also – giving you the perfect companion paper to *Inside Soccer*.

If you're a devotee of Aussie soccer then *Inside Soccer* will definitely be your number one read, now established as Australia's NUMBER ONE paper. In fact, in most New South Wales newsagencies we are outselling our rivals by two or three to one.

And that deserves a big thank you to you, our growing band of regular readers.

Now with *Soccer World* we have the greatest game on earth fully covered.

In our next issue we will bring you a comprehensive look at the world of international football, and it's all free – to readers of *Inside Soccer*, that is.

So stick with Australia's best soccer publication throughout the winter – tell your friends, and a special tip: watch out for SOCCER BINGO.

We are giving away THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS in prizes and it is the competition that you have all been waiting for.

Where you can get more details? ONLY in *Inside Soccer*, and, of course, *Soccer World* – THE TWO BEST READS IN SOCCER.

Cec Bucello



1995/96 FA CUP FINAL

FA CUP FINAL MAY 11
Manchester United v Liverpool
 LIVE on FOX starts 12 midnight
 Cup Party BFM 88.7
 preview begins 6.30pm

ON THE WAY TO ONE DOUBLE: now can Manchester United make it two?



PREVIOUS FA CUP HEAD TO HEADS

1898	Second Round	Man United 0	Liverpool 0
		Liverpool 2	Man United 1
1903	First Round	Man United 2	Liverpool 1
		Man United 1	Liverpool 1
1921	First Round	Man United 1	Liverpool 2
		Man United 3	Liverpool 0
1948	Fourth Round	Man United 3	Liverpool 1
		Man United 3	Liverpool 1
1960	Fourth Round	Man United 2	Liverpool 1
		Man United 2	Liverpool 1
1977	FA Cup Final	Man United 2	Liverpool 1
		Semi Final	Liverpool 0
1979	Semi Final	Man United 1	Liverpool 0
		Man United 2	Liverpool 1
1985	Semi Final	Man United 1	Liverpool 0
		Man United 2	Liverpool 1

CUP FACTS, TRIVIA & TIPS

- * Since their first FA Cup meeting in 1898 Manchester United have won six out of eight, including the last five meetings. Red Devils' supporters will tell you the best win of all was the 1977 final.
- * Manchester United will play in their red strips - having won the toss against Liverpool.
- * Both keepers, Schmeichel and James, can expect busy afternoons but experts tip that the Dane will be the busier. This season Fowler and Collymore have formed a sensational Liverpool strike partnership.
- * Robbie Fowler has netted four goals in the two league meetings between the clubs this season - and Manchester United have only managed one point out of a possible six against the other Reds.
- * Out of form Andy Coles is a big problem to United. He looks to have lost his place to



Eric Cantona ... super star

Scholes who scored the first goal in that 5-0 thumping of Nottingham Forest, after getting Coles' first team shirt.

* Superstars Andy Coles and Ian Rush are likely to be bench warmers for the start of the Cup Final.

* The influence of Eric Cantona on United's recent matches cannot be overlooked. He has scored several vital goals giving Manchester United 1-0 wins over Arsenal, Spurs and Newcastle.

* Hard man defender 'Razor' Ruddock looks a good bet to mark either Giggs or Cantona.

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MAY

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

Manchester United

Round 3 January 6th

v Sunderland 2-2

Scorers: Butt 13, Cantona 80

Round 3 Replay January 16th

v Sunderland 2-1

Scorers: Scholes 70, Cole 89

Round 4 January 27th

v Reading 3-0

Scorers: Giggs 36, Parker 56,

Cantona 89

Round 5 February 18th

v Manchester City 2-1

Scorers: Cantona pen 38, Sharpe 77

Round 6 March 11th

v Southampton 2-0

Scorers: Cantona 49, Sharpe 90

Semi Finals March 31st

v Chelsea 2-1

Scorers: Cole 55, Beckham 58

Liverpool

Round 3 January 6th

v Rochdale 7-0

Scorers: Fowler 21, Collymore 43, 44, 70, Rush 61, McAteer 85, own goal 48

Round 4 February 18th

v Shrewsbury Town 4-0

Scorers: Collymore 8, Fowler 75,

McAteer 84, own goal 69

Round 5 February 28th

v Charlton Athletic 2-1

Scorers: Fowler 12, Collymore 59

Round 6 March 10th

v Leeds United 0-0

Round 6 Replay March 20th

v Leeds United 3-0

Scorers: McManaman 57, 73,

Fowler 83

Semi Final March 31st

v Aston Villa 3-0

Scorers: Fowler 16, 86, McAteer 90

manchester united

THE LIKELY STARTING LINE-UP

Peter Schmeichel (Born 18.11.63, Gladaxe)

Danish international goalkeeper. 6' 4", joined United from Brondby and has played over 150 league games. 'Mr Dependable', always giving 100%. Does not tend to hold back on defenders either. Like an extra man in defence. 9

Denis Irwin (Born 31.10.65, Cork)

Left sided defender. Started out at Leeds as an apprentice, playing 72 games. Later moved to Oldham (another 167 games) then came the big move to Man Utd. Irish international who is a solid defender. 8

Gary Pallister (Born 30.06.65, Ramsgate)

Played 156 games for Middlesbrough before joining Manchester United. Now played over 200 games at Old Trafford and has also become a regular in the England side. Injury has wrecked most of his season but has got back in time to enjoy the best part. 7.5

David May (Born 24.06.70 Oldham)

Six foot central defender who played 100+ games for Blackburn before joining United. Ideal replacement for the injured Steve Bruce. Likely to play instead of Bruce who might be considered too much of a risk. 7

Gary Neville (Born 18.02.75 Bury)

Former United trainee who has now made the full England side. Played in last year's losing Cup Final side. 8

Lee Sharpe (Born 25.05.71 Halesowen)

Trainee at Torquay before moving on to a slightly bigger United! Not the player he was just a few seasons ago but still potentially dangerous. Deadly on the wing. Former England international. 7

David Beckham (Born 02.05.75 London)

Former trainee at United, also had loan spell at Preston. Young midfielder who looks to have the world at his feet. Scores great goals under pressure - like his one in the semi. Key player in midfield which is a lot for a youngster to handle. 8

Roy Keane (Born 10.08.71 Cork)

Left Cobh Ramblers for Nottingham Forest where he played 114 games and scored 22 goals. Will try to dominate the midfield and is not afraid to tackle to win the ball. Is United's ball winner and general and they need to have him on top of his game for the rest of the team to get enough ball to display their skills. 8

Ryan Giggs (Born 29.11.73 Cardiff)

Played for England schoolboys before becoming a full England international. Joined United as a youngster and won a FA Youth Cup medal. Also in the side which won the FA Cup two seasons ago. In good form recently although he has never played to his best in United's last two FA Cup finals. Will create problems down the left wing. 8.5

Paul Scholes (Born 16.11.74 Salford)

Former United trainee who has scored lots of goals this season including a few off the bench. Replaced Andy Cole in United's 5-0 demolition of Nottingham Forest which has probably seen him get the nod for the final. The United attack look sharp with him and Cantona up front. 8

Eric Cantona (Born 24.05.66 Paris)

L'enfant Terrible. French international who has played at Auxerre, Martigues, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Montpellier and Nimes. Also trialled with

Sheffield Wednesday but signed with Leeds United after Trevor Francis dallied over his transfer. After falling out with Howard Wilkinson moved to United for £1.2million - Alex Ferguson's best ever deal. A brilliant big occasion player. 10

THE PROBABLE BENCH

Andy Cole (Born 15.10.71 Nottingham)

England international. Former Arsenal trainee (1 league game) with spells at Fulham and Bristol City. Taken to Newcastle by Kevin Keegan where he became a scoring sensation causing United to splash out £7million. Not had the most successful of times at Old Trafford and a possible target for Chelsea in the off season. 6.5

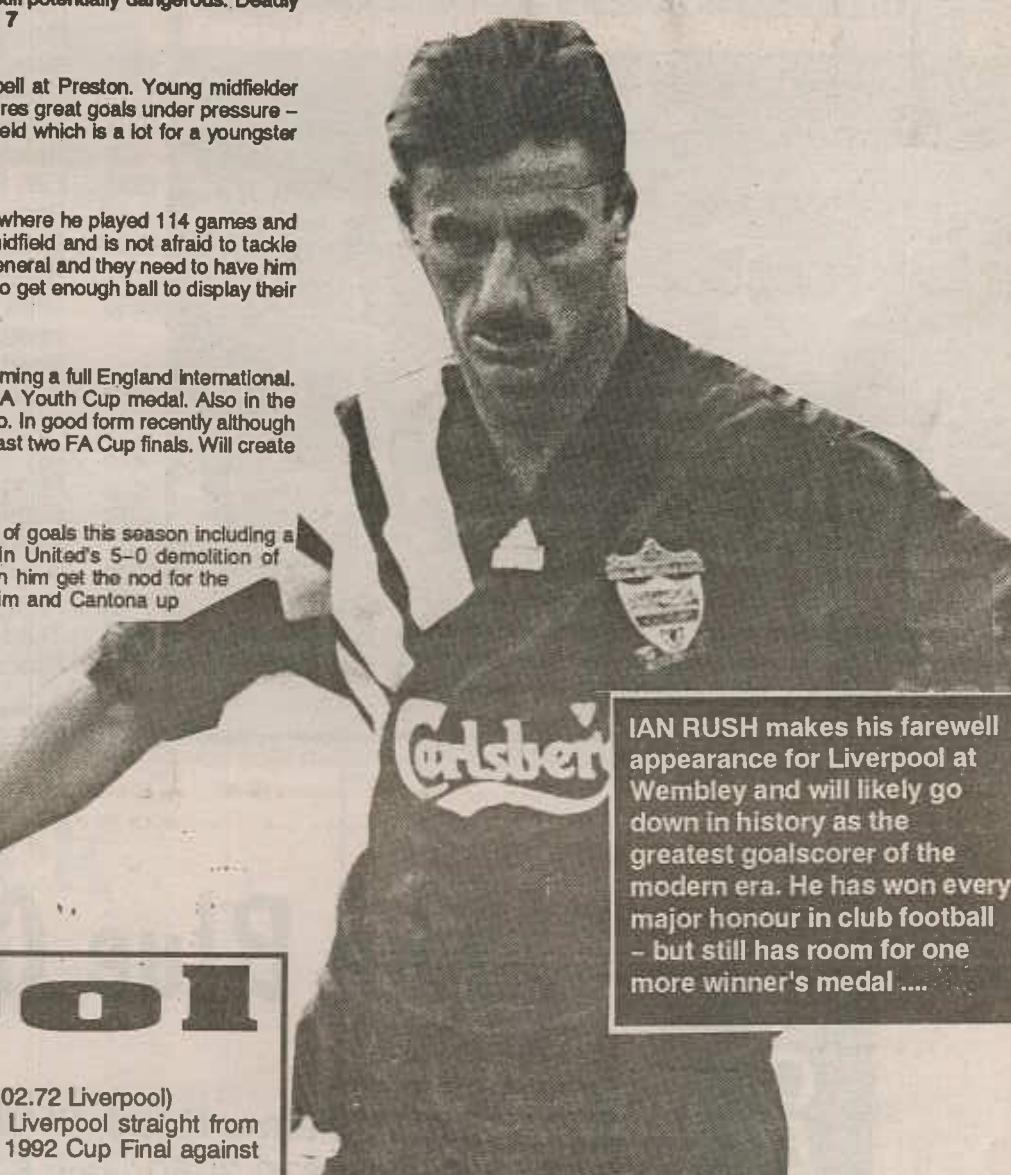
Brian McClair (Born 08.12.63 Bellshill)

Former Scottish international. Apprentice at Aston Villa before moving to Motherwell and then Celtic. Played over 300 games with United since moving south and is an important off the bench player. Plays either in midfield or up front. 7.5

Philip Neville (Born 21.01.77 Bury)

Made the England squad this season. Former United youth player who has the confidence of Alex Ferguson. 8

TOTAL: 11.5



IAN RUSH makes his farewell appearance for Liverpool at Wembley and will likely go down in history as the greatest goalscorer of the modern era. He has won every major honour in club football - but still has room for one more winner's medal

Liverpool

THE LIKELY STARTING LINE UP

David James (Born 01.08.70 Welwyn)

6'5" goalie who was a trainee at Watford before moving to Liverpool in 1992. After struggling initially he has been outstanding. England Under 21. 7.5

Rob Jones (Born 05.11.71 Wrexham)

Right defender and England international. Regular at Crewe from 1987 to 1991 when he joined Liverpool. Attacks down the right flank. 8.5

Nell Ruddock (Born 09.05.68 London)

Apprentice at Millwall but moved to Spurs then Southampton and after a spell back at White Hart Lane moved to Anfield in 1993. In and out of the Liverpool side this season. 7

Mark Wright (Born 01.08.63 Dorchester)

Defender whose first league club was Oxford. Played over 150 games at Derby and moved to Anfield in 1991 when he became an England player. Starting to return to his old form of the 1990 World Cup. 7.5

John Scales (Born 04.07.66 Harrogate)

6'2" defender who came to Liverpool in 1994 after spells at Leeds, Bristol Rovers and Wimbledon. Fought hard for his position and won't let the club down at Wembley. 7.5

Jason McAteer (Born 18.06.71 Birkenhead)

Irish World Cup player in 1994. Part of the Bolton side in 1991 which had a superb Cup run - including wins over Liverpool, Arsenal and Everton. Joined the Reds this season, the team he supported as a boy. Faces a crucial battle with fellow Irish international Denis Irwin. 8.5

Jamie Redknapp (Born 25.06.73 Barton)

Joined Liverpool from Bournemouth in 1990. England international who has had his season interrupted by injury and an in-form Michael Thomas. Recently re-established in the first team. 7.5

Steve McManaman (Born 11.02.72 Liverpool)

Midfielder/winger who joined Liverpool straight from school. Made his mark in the 1992 Cup Final against Sunderland. 8.5

John Barnes (Born 07.11.63 Jamaica)

Attacking midfielder who was a star of the Watford team of the '80s. Signed for Liverpool in 1987 and has played for England over 80 times. Can still score amazing goals but has a tendency to drift out of games. Wembley would be a great showcase for his dazzling skills. 7.5

Stan Collymore (Born 22.01.71 Stone)

Spells at Crystal Palace, Southend and Nottingham Forest where he became a legend on the terraces. Chose Liverpool this season over Everton and after initial problems has finally settled down and developed as a team player. 8

Robbie Fowler (Born 09.04.75 Liverpool)

Grew up as an Everton supporter but signed for Liverpool as a trainee. Timing and reading of the play is excellent and makes up for perceived lack of pace. 9

THE PROBABLE BENCH

Ian Rush (Born 20.10.61 St Asaph)

Wales international who started his career at Chester. In 1980 moved to Liverpool and has broken every club goalscoring record since then. Brief stint at Juventus in 1987/88 season scoring

Special Preview by
Michael Reeves & Charles G Armstrong

only 7 goals in 29 games. What a sub!!!
Leaving Liverpool at season's end. 8

Michael Thomas (Born 02.10.64 Lambeth)
Former England midfielder. Scored the goal in 1989 for Arsenal against Liverpool which gave the Gunners the title. Joined Liverpool in 1992. Also scored for Liverpool in their last FA Cup final appearance. Struggled with injury over the last few years. 6.5

Phil Babb (Born 30.11.70 Lambeth)
Still in line for Mark Wright's spot in the starting line up. Periods at Millwall, Bradford City and Coventry before coming to Anfield in 1994. Has had to battle hard for a spot in a team which has many talented centre backs. 7

TOTAL: 108.5

1995/96 SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



SCOTTISH CUP FINAL MAY 18
Hearts v Glasgow Rangers
 LIVE on FOX starts 12 midnight
 Cup Party BFM 88.7
 LIVE from the Blue Cattle Dog, St Clair
 beginning 6.30pm



CUP PARTY: can Rangers cap another brilliant domestic season with another double success?

PREVIOUS SCOTTISH CUP HEAD TO HEADS

1899	First Round		
	Rangers 4	Hearts 1	
1903	Cup Final		
	Rangers 0	Hearts 0	
	Rangers 2	Hearts 0	
1904	First Round		
	Rangers 3	Hearts 2	
1922	Third Round		
	Rangers 4	Hearts 0	
1930	Semi Final		
	Rangers 4	Hearts 1	
1932	Third Round		
	Rangers 1	Hearts 0	
1934	Third Round		
	Rangers 0	Hearts 0	
	Rangers 2	Hearts 1	
1935	Semi Final		
	Rangers 1	Hearts 1	
	Rangers 2	Hearts 0	
1953	Semi Final		
	Rangers 2	Hearts 1	
1956	Seventh Round		
	Hearts 4	Rangers 0	
1957	Fifth Round		
	Rangers 4	Hearts 0	
1959	Second Round		
	Rangers 3	Hearts 2	
1968	Third Round		
	Hearts 1	Rangers 1	
	Hearts 1	Rangers 0	
1969	Second Round		
	Rangers 2	Hearts 0	
1976	Cup Final		
	Rangers 3	Hearts 1	
1977	Semi Final		
	Rangers 2	Hearts 0	
1980	Fifth Round		
	Rangers 6	Hearts 1	
1986	Third Round		
	Hearts 3	Rangers 2	

CUP FACT: for all the striking power of Glasgow Rangers they have not managed to score against Hearts in their last two league meetings – but have conceded five. The Edinburgh side appear to have the 'Indian sign' on their Glasgow rivals this year – but they have only ever won against Rangers four times in over a hundred years, and NEVER in a Scottish Cup Final.



Ace jambo: John Robertson

1993	Semi Final		
	Rangers 2	Hearts 1	
1994	Fifth Round		
	Rangers 2	Hearts 0	
1995	Fourth Round		
	Hearts 4	Rangers 2	

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THE ROAD TO HAMPDEN

GLASGOW RANGERS

Round 3 January 27th

v Keith 10-1

Scorers: Ferguson 2, 20, 49, Cleland 13, 15, 28, Durie pen 45, Robertson 47, Miller 62, Michailichenko 87

Round 4 February 15th

v Clyde 4-1

Scorers: Miller 66, 74, van Vossen 80, Gascoigne 82

Quarter Final March 9th

v Caledonian Thistle 3-0

Scorers: own goal 15, Gascoigne 35, 52

Semi Finals April 7th

v Celtic 2-1

Scorers: McCoist 43, Laudrup 66

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

Round 3 January 30th

v Partick Thistle 1-0

Scorer: Ritchie 63

Round 4 February 17th

v Kilmarnock 2-1

Scorers: Ritchie 54, Berry 79

Quarter Final March 7th

v St Johnstone 2-1

Scorers: Lawrence 45, McPherson 56

Semi-Final April 6th

v Aberdeen 2-1

Scorers: Robertson 80, Johnston 90

hearts

THE LIKELY STARTING ELEVEN

Giles Rousset

Previously at Lyon and Rennes. Joined Hearts on a free transfer this season and has since become a permanent fixture in goals. 7.5

Dave McPherson

6'3" defender formerly at Rangers (twice). Experience at the back makes him a key player. 27 caps for Scotland. 8

Paul Ritchie

Left side defender and now well established as a first team player. 7

Neil Pointon

Played with Scunthorpe, Everton, Manchester City and Oldham before joining Hearts this season. Influential in attacking build ups. 7.5

Alan McManus

Set to leave on a free transfer under previous management. Has attacking flare but this will be a big occasion for him. 7

Pasquale Bruno

Hard man defender with Torino and Juventus where he picked up 50 bans. Big money player earning £4,000 per week. If he can keep his cool he may prove the key for a Hearts success. 8.5

Gary MacKay

Local midfielder who is a terrace hero. A strength in midfield and looks set to get a first team start for the final. 7.5

Gary Locke

Youngest captain in the Premier League

at 20 and an Under 21 cap. 7.5

Steve Fulton

Midfield/forward who came through the Celtic junior ranks. Moved to Bolton but found himself loaned out to Peterborough before returning north to Falkirk in 1994. Joined Hearts this season. 7

Alan Johnston

Joined the Tynecastle club in 1991. Plays as right winger or centre forward and the man they call 'Magic' already scored a hat trick in the club's last game at Ibrox. 8.5

John Robertson

14 full caps for Scotland. Other than a spell at Newcastle played all his senior football for Hearts. The goalscoring ace for the Jambos this season and their main hope in the final.

THE PROBABLE BENCH

John Colquhoun

Played at Stirling Albion, Celtic, Millwall and Sunderland as well as Hearts. Mainly used as a bench player this season. 7

Neil Berry

Defender who started career as an apprentice at Bolton. 12 years at Tynecastle although his career has been hit heavily by injuries. 7.5

Alan Lawrence

Signed this season from Airdrie. Attacking player who has become a great asset off the bench. 7

TOTAL: 105.5

rangers

THE LIKELY STARTING ELEVEN

Andy Goram

Made league debut at Oldham before moving to Hibs in 1987. Moved to Rangers in 1991 for £1million. Brilliant keeper with superb positional sense and rated by many as the best in Europe. 9.5

David Robertson

Played for five seasons with Aberdeen before moving to Rangers where he has been a consistent defender. 7.5

Richard Gough

Former Scottish captain. Central defender who has played with Dundee United and Tottenham before coming to Ibrox in 1987. Captain dependable. 8

Alan McLaren

Played eight seasons with Cup Final opponents Hearts before swapping to Rangers in 1995. Scottish international who also adds to the attack down the flank. 8

John Brown

No frills player who has also been at Hamilton and Dundee. Tough defender who does the hard things easy. 7

Trevor Steven

England international signed from Everton in 1989 although he played the 1991 season with Marseilles after owner Bernard Tapie made Rangers a £4.5million offer. Back from injury. 7.5

Gordon Durie

Known as 'Jukebox' his career has been revitalised since transferring from Chelsea to Rangers in 1993. Also had a spell at Hibs. A real goalscorer. 7.5

Paul Gascoigne

Dogged by injury and controversy during his spell in Italy with Lazio. Previously also at Tottenham and Newcastle. On a massive £7,500 per week but worth every penny as he has walked away with the Scottish Player of the Year award. England international who is in devastating form. 9.5

Stuart McCall

Played at Bradford, where he was an apprentice, and Everton before linking up at Ibrox in 1991. Play maker who must be watched. Scotland international. 8

Brian Laudrup

Joined Rangers from Fiorentina in 1994. Danish international and Scottish Player of the Year last season. A great player who will be very dangerous in the final. 9

Erik Bo Andersen

Danish B cap. Scored 24 goals for Danish champions Aalborg before joining Rangers in March. Looks to have secured a starting place although his form in the last home game against Aberdeen was very ordinary. 7

AND THE PROBABLE BENCH

Ally McCoist

Started career at St Johnstone before moving south to Sunderland. Joined Rangers in 1983 and has since become a folk hero. Hampered by a succession of major injuries in recent years but still possesses a prolific goalscoring touch. Could be his last appearance for Rangers with Seville keen to sign him the man they call 'Super Ally'. 8

Iain Durrant

Long serving midfielder whose career was severely interrupted by a shattering knee injury. Scotland international who also had a brief loan spell with Everton last season. Recently used off the bench. 7

Gordan Petric

Yugoslav international who joined Dundee United from Partizan Belgrade in 1993. Joined Rangers last season. Lost his regular spot lately and may well start the game on the bench. 8

TOTAL: 111.5

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YOUTH soccer tournaments have exploded all over the world, all over the world, that is, except for Australia.

In the past they have been generally low key affairs with the one notable exception being the Kanga Cup, now held in Canberra.

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"Our future is in youth football - which is why I spend so much of my own time in that very important area.

"I would recommend that any team manager or coach who is serious about his football contacts the organisers for more information."

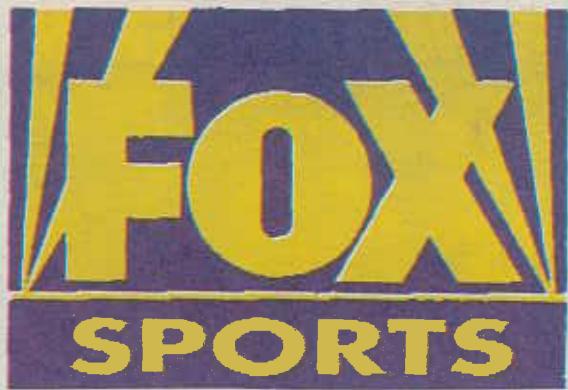
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